

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NEA-14 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /150 W

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R 261120Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8712

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDOCOSOUTH

USEUCOM

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1213

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CY, GR

SUBJECT: GOCYPRUS CAMPAIGN RE NATIONAL GUARD

REF: NICOSIA 1208

SUMMARY: FURTHER INDICATIONS OF BROAD CENTER/RIGHT NEUTRALITY, IN SOME CASES OPPOSITION TO PIO-LED CAMPAIGN AGAINST ATHENS. GOVT OFFICIAL SAYS EOKA-B "TRUCE" EXPLAINS ABSENCE VIOLENCE PAST FEW DAYS. INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS ISSUE LARGELY SHELVED. END SUMMARY.

1. SO FAR EDITORIAL SUPPORT FOR MAKARIOS' CAMPAIGN AGAINST GOGREECE CONFINED TO PRO-GOVT "PHILELEFTHEROS", COMMUNIST "HARAVGHI" AND LYSSARIDES' "TA NEA." CENTER AND RIGHT NEUTRAL, IN SOME CASES HOSTILE. CLERIDES' "AGHON" HAS OPENLY OPPOSED IDEA OF REDUCING SERVICE OF NATIONAL GUARD AND ITS HEADLINE TREATMENT OF LATEST PIO CHARGES (REFTEL) BETRAYS SKEPTICISM THEIR VALIDITY. NICOS SAMPSON'S "MAKHI" HAS BEEN NEUTRALIZED  
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EDITORIALLY, POSSIBLY BY MANIPULATION OF VARIOUS DEBTS WHICH,

ACCORDING TO COMMON GOSSIP, ARCHBISHOP HOLDS OVER SAMPSON'S HEAD.

2. CENTER-RIGHT GROUPS CONTINUE VIEW CAMPAIGN WITH GREAT RESERVE. TWO COUNSELORS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY HAVE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED DISMAY AT CURRENT STATE ATHENS-NICOSIA RELATIONS; ONE SHARPLY CRITICIZED PIO CHRISTODOULOU'S PERFORMANCE.

3. PIO HAS SO FAR PRODUCED NO DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE TO BACK UP CHARGES LEVELED SINCE JUNE 22, BUT WE EXPECT CAMPAIGN OF ACCUSATIONS WILL CONTINUE. THIS REGARD, WE NOT SUSPICIOUS COINCIDENTAL RELEASE JUNE 15 OF CORONER'S REPORT ON DEATH OF NG RECRUIT LAST YEAR. REPORT ACCUSES NG CAMP COMMAND OF "CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE" AND OBSTRUCTION OF INQUIRY INTO DEATH. CONCEIVABLY, AND AS POSSIBLE FURTHER HARASSMENT OF NG, LEGAL ACTION COULD NOW BE INSTITUTED IN CYPRUS COURTS AGAINST NG OFFICIALS.

4. GREEK AMB LAGACOS HAS NOT YET RETURNED; HIS EMBASSY UNSURE WHEN HE WILL RETURN. (NOTE: HE IS HOST TO DIP CORPS ON FRIDAY, AND DELAY PAST THAT DATE WOULD HEIGHTEN LOCAL SPECULATION THAT CRISIS IS ON THE WAY.)

5. IN WELTER OF OFFICIAL RHETORIC AND INSPIRED PRESS BACK-FOUNDERS, WISH REMIND THAT VIOLENCE HAS TAPERED OFF TO ALMOST NOTHING IN PAST FEW DAYS. (GOVT ARRESTS AND SEIZURES OF MATERIEL CONTINUE.) CYPRUS KYP CHIEF TOMBAZOS TOLD DATT JUNE 25 THAT EOKA-B LEADERSHIP DECIDED PROCLAIM "TRUCE" IN WAKE OF ADVERSE REACTION TO MURDERS AND BOMBINGS PAST FEW WEEKS. (VARIOUS PRESS HAS ECHOED THIS LINE, PROBABLY ON GOVT INSPIRATION.)

6. COMMENT: INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT CRUNCH THIS TIME WILL COME OVER NG, NOT INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS OR EVEN EOKA-B. THERE NO SIGN GOGREECE PREPARED MAKE CONCESSIONS RE CONTROL NG (OR ON QUESTION OFFICER SELECTION). IF MAKARIOS PURSUES ISSUE, WE COULD HAVE MOST SERIOUS CONFRONTATION SINCE FEB 1972. GRANT

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